

Information Sheet No 15 GAS SHUT OFF WHEN AUTOMATIC FIRE EQUIPMENT OPERATES

Scope and Application

This information sheet details requirements for gas safety shut-off systems when connected to fire extinguishing systems.

System design

Acceptable pressure proving safety shut-off systems are available as a package from gas control suppliers or an individually designed system may be installed. Components used in a system must be approved by the Australian Gas Association or acceptable to the Director of Gas Safety.

Applicable Standard.

AS 5601 Gas Installations

Reference:

Clause 5.11 GAS SHUT OFF WHEN AUTOMATIC FIRE EQUIPMENT OPERATES

Where operation of overhead automatic fire extinguishing equipment may extinguish an appliance flame –

- (a) the appliance shall be fitted with a flame safeguard system; or
- (b) the installation shall be fitted with a system that will shut off the gas supply when the fire extinguishing system operates. The system shall require pressure proving of the downstream installation prior to the restoration of the gas supply.

To comply with clause 5.11 the safety shut-off system may:

1. automatically shut-off gas supply to an appliance when a fire extinguishing system operates; or
2. automatically shut-off gas supply to the premises or a selected part of the premises such as a commercial kitchen when a fire extinguishing system operates.

The safety shut-off systems design must prevent restoration of supply to unsafe consumer piping.

Areas not readily accessible

Areas of a building or premises that may not be readily assessable shall have a manual shut-off valve installed. The intent of this valve is to isolate inaccessible downstream gas equipment. The valve must be accessible and turned off before upstream gas supplies are restored. The person responsible for that part of the installation must be notified and appropriate steps undertaken to reconnect their gas supply.

Electrical circuit connection

The safety shut-off systems must be connected as per the installation instructions.

NOTE: Consideration should be given to wiring electronic systems into the sprinkler systems pump circuit rather than the alarm circuit.

Loss of power supply

The design of the system should minimize nuisance shut-offs especially where multiple residential premises such as apartments are involved.

- Avoid situations where the safety shut-off valve automatically closes on failure of power supply to the premises. Even a power failure of very short duration could result in unnecessary gas shut-off.

- Where interruption of the electrical supply can cause burner shutdown, then restoration of the supply shall not be capable of causing a hazard.

Locating the shut-off valve

Carefully consider the location of the automatic shut-off valve to provide adequate protection without causing unnecessary outage.

Requirements for signs

- The system shall have a sign displayed with details on how to reset the safety shut-off valve.
- It is advisable to include contact details of any person or company contracted to restore supply.
- A sign should indicate the location of the manual shut-off valve.

Reset switch

The reset switch should be key operated or located in an area not readily accessible to the public.

Responsibility for resetting the system

Responsibility for resetting the system and restoring supply rests with the building owner or occupier. It is not a matter the gas distribution or retail company.

**If further information is required, please contact
Gas Standards *and* Safety on 1300 366 322**

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